**Dictionary** 

California Education and the Environment Initiative









Energy: It's Not All the Same to You!

# **Dictionary**



## benefit

The gain or improvement resulting from an action.



# **byproduct**

Something produced when something else is made or consumed.





#### conserve

To use a resource in such a way that it is not wasted, lost, or damaged.







#### conversion

The process of changing one form of energy to another, such as the conversion of chemical energy to heat and light when fuel is burned.



#### cost

The amount of money, time, or effort required to achieve a goal.



# efficiency

Operating with the least possible waste of energy, material, time, or effort.

# electricity

A flow of energy from the movement of charged particles known as electrons.



#### emissions

Materials, such as gases or other matter released during a process, such as manufacturing or transportation.



## energy

The capacity to do work or the source of power to do work.





#### generate

To produce or create, such as producing electricity from fuel.



# mitigate

To reduce or balance out the change resulting from another action, such as restoring habitat in one area to balance out a loss of habitat in another.



# natural systems

The parts, processes, and cycles in an environment, and the interactions among plants, animals, and other organisms with their environment.



# power plant

A place where energy is converted into another form, such as heat into electricity.



R

#### radioactive

A material that releases energy in the form of radiation.



# renewable resource

A natural resource that is naturally replenished at a rate comparable to the rate at which is it consumed by humans.





# utility company

A company that provides electricity, water, or communication services.





# Climate change

A long-term significant change in the weather patterns of an area.



#### Commercial

Connected with business, industry, or trade, and generally operated for a profit.



# **Extracting**

The act of removing natural resources from their natural origin or separating a metal from ore.

#### **Industrial**

Related to the production of goods, such as manufacturing, mining, and processing ore, and chemicals



# Life-cycle assessment

A study of how extracting, processing, and using energy and other natural resources can affect the environment.



# **Petroleum products**

The products derived from crude oil.





#### Residential

Related to places people live, such as houses, apartment buildings, motels, and other living areas.



# **Transportation**

The act of carrying or moving people or things from one place to another.

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